

# Add these coding resources to your must-have list for 2008

Here's a look at just a few of the books, handbooks, Web sites, and newsletters that may be on your wish lists for 2008.

## General coding resources

Bookmark these Web sites. Chances are you'll need them in 2008.

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Web site ([www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov))
- American Medical Association Web site ([www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org))
- American Health Information Management Association Web site ([www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org))
- Medicare Web site ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov))
- Office of Inspector General Web site ([www.oig.hhs.gov](http://www.oig.hhs.gov))
- American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons ([www.aaos.org](http://www.aaos.org))
- Local fiscal intermediary Web sites

## Inpatient coding

Consider the following texts:

- [2008 ICD-9-CM Manual](#). The AMA publishes this must-have inpatient coding manual every year.
- [ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting](#). Use this resource, published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for all of your inpatient coding needs.
- To stay on top of ICD-9 coding guideline changes, consider these books by Faye Brown. [ICD-9-CM Coding Handbook With Answers 2008](#) and [ICD-9-CM Coding Handbook Without Answers 2008](#).

In addition, keep these training handbooks and Web sites on hand to encourage communication and assist physicians in choosing words or language that reflects the patient's true severity of illness and risk of mortality so coders can assign accurate and specific ICD-9-CM codes:

- [A Team Approach to Accurate Codes and Profiles Through Documentation](#)
- The Association of Clinical Documentation Improvement Specialists ([www.hcpro.com/acdis](http://www.hcpro.com/acdis))
- DocuEd Health Care Education and Certification ([www.DocuEd.com](http://www.DocuEd.com))

And finally, don't forget to pick up this monthly HCPro newsletter for guidance and strategies for following coding, documentation, and billing rules for healthcare organizations:

- [\*\*Briefings on Coding Compliance Strategies\*\*](#)

## Outpatient coding

Consider adding the following resources to your list:

- [2008 CPT Manual](#). This American Medical Association's (AMA) outpatient coding manual should be on every coders' list.
- [The National Correct Coding Policy Manual for Part B Medicare Carriers](#). Download and read this manual prevent improper payment when incorrect code combinations are reported as it includes information on coding, modifier use, and much more.
- [CPT Assistant](#). The AMA publishes this resource of coding scenarios, timely coding advice, and coding questions/answers.
- [CPT Coding Helpline \(800/634-6922\)](#). Purchase an annual subscription to this AMA service and the answers to your CPT coding questions are only a phone call away.

Don't forget to add the following newsletters subscriptions:

- [\*\*APC Answer Letter\*\*](#). Subscribe to this monthly HCPro newsletter and have access to an expert advisory panel that will answer all of your APC-related coding questions.
- [\*\*APC Payment Insider\*\*](#). Subscribe to this monthly HCPro newsletter on the latest coding and policy changes affecting Medicare outpatient billing under ambulatory payment classifications (APCs).

- **Briefings on APCs.** Read this monthly HCPro newsletter to better understand the complexities of the changing rules for OPPS and APCs and the impact they will have on hospital health information management systems and processes, including coding, documentation, and billing.

#### Evaluation and management coding

Bookmark this resource for all of your evaluation and management coding needs:

- [2007 Documentation Guidelines for Evaluation and Management Services](#)

#### Medical anatomy/terminology

Consider adding the following resources to your list:

- [Medical Abbreviations: 28,000 Conveniences at the Expense of Communication and Safety, 13th edition](#). Neil M. Davis Associates publishes a book every two years for medical abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols, as well as a cross-referenced list of generic and brand drug names. You'll also have 24-month access (from the time of initial login) to a Web site that posts all additions/updates to the book and can use a search engine that allows you to search the complete text of the publication.
- [Atlas of Human Anatomy, 4th Edition](#). Frank H. Netter, MD, also publishes a must-have book that contains anatomical illustrations to help you understand various diagnoses and procedures.
- [The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, 18th Edition \(available in April 2008\)](#). Add this resource written by more than 300 medical experts to your wish list.
- [Physicians' Desk Reference, 2008, 62nd bookstore edition](#). Use this resource published by Thomson Healthcare-or pick from a variety of drug reference books published within the last two years-for the latest information about prescription drugs, including proper spellings, dosages, interactions, FDA-required information, and more.
- [Stedman's Abbreviations, Acronyms & Symbols](#). Use this resource for access to more than 75,000 abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols for medical language specialists and medical, health, and nursing professionals. This resource includes more than 7,500 new abbreviations, slang abbreviations, expansions, acronyms, symbols, and appendices.

#### Specialty coding resources

- [Complete Global Service Data for Orthopaedic Surgery, 2008 edition \(available in March 2008\)](#). If you code orthopaedic surgery, include this resource on your wish list; the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons details inclusions and exclusions for more than 1,500 musculoskeletal procedures.
- [Dr. Z's Medical Coding Series: Interventional Radiology Coding Reference, 2008](#). Use this reference, published by ZHealth Publications, for your interventional radiology coding needs, including coding examples, cross-references, and illustrations/charts.
- [Ingenix 2008 Coders' Dictionary](#). This medical dictionary lays the groundwork for understanding medical terminology from a coder's perspective, meeting the specific needs of medical coders, admitting clerks, billers, and adjudicators.

#### Other educational coding resources

Be sure to sign up for several upcoming [HCPro-sponsored audioconferences](#) to ensure that you stay on top of the most recent coding guidelines. Some topics to look forward to in March include:

- [Medicare's Shared/Split Visit Policy: Avoid risks and follow documentation rules"](#) (March 4)
- [Recovery Audit Contractors: Lessons learned to help your hospital prepare now"](#) (March 11)
- ["Heart Failure under MS-DRGs: Get complete documentation to ensure appropriate reimbursement and optimal profiles"](#) (March 14)
- [Facility E/M Update: Meet CMS' latest coding and documentation requirements"](#) (March 18)

To maintain your continuing education credits, browse this extensive list of [HCPro e-learning courses](#) for CPT, ICD-9-CM, and ICD-10 coding.

And, of course, maintain your subscription to the weekly online newsletter [justcoding.com](#), which is your source for articles about coding medical conditions, treatments, diseases, and procedures, as well as HIM director advice, coding quizzes, reader polls, and answers to all of your coding questions. Your subscription also allows you to earn continuing education credits with the American Academy of Professional Coders and the American Health Information Management Association.

For weekly updates about coding rules and regulations, as well as answers to your tough coding questions/scenarios, subscribe to one of HCPro's free weekly e-zines:

- [APCs Weekly Monitor](#)
- [E-Coding News](#)

- [HIM Connection](#)
- [CDI Strategies](#)

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